

# ***Health Policy Newsletter***

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## The Jefferson Headache Symposium

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## The Jefferson Headache Symposium

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The Third Annual Jefferson Headache Symposium was held on October 9, 1999 as a joint effort of the Jefferson Headache Center, Jefferson Medical College, and the Office of Continuing Medical Education. The annual event brings together neurologists, family practitioners, obstetricians, and other health care professionals to provide a comprehensive update on the most recent advances in the diagnosis and treatment of headaches.

The program, chaired by Stephen D. Silberstein, MD, Director of the Jefferson Headache Center, included faculty from Jefferson Medical College and guest speakers from other top medical institutions in the nation. Fred Michael Cutrer, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital, presented the most recent technological advances in neuroimaging, including use of functional MRI to examine basic questions about the pathophysiology of migraine. Todd Rozen, MD, Jefferson Headache Center, provided an overview of the history, epidemiology, and clinical characteristics of trigeminal neuralgia with particular emphasis on current treatment modalities. David Dodick, MD, Mayo Clinic, presented an overview of recent developments in cluster headache, including its pathophysiology, diagnosis, and practical treatment strategies.

William Young, MD, Jefferson Headache Center, emphasized the importance of following evidence-based treatment guidelines for the management of acute headache and reviewed the various drugs currently used for treatment. Other nationally renowned clinicians that participated in the symposium included David Rothner, MD, Director of Pediatric Neurology at the Cleveland Clinic, and Jes Olesen, MD, Professor of Neurology at the University of Copenhagen and founder of the International Headache Society. Attendees had the opportunity to pose specific questions to the speakers and gain insight on therapeutic and diagnostic challenges that they encounter in everyday practice.

### **About the Author**

Dennis M. Meletiche, PharmD, is a Health Economics Fellow in the Office of Health Policy and Clinical Outcomes at Thomas Jefferson University.